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## Alumni eNews – January 2009

Dear SIPA Alumni,

The New Year is in full swing—and Alumni Relations has a number of activities to keep you busy.

The economic downturn may have impacted you. To meet the challenges of this difficult economy, SIPA Alumni Relations and the Office of Career Services will be holding a **Career Networking Session** in New York City for alumni on February 23<sup>rd</sup> with career management coach Ellis Chase. (More information below). The session will also be recorded so that our alumni around the world can view it.

Other events include the **DC SIPA Career Alumni Reception** (1/15/09), a **NYC Art Gallery Exhibition** (1/29/09) and a **London Cocktail Event** with Dean Coatsworth (2/4/09). For local events in your area, don't forget to check your local CAA listing [here](#).

Best wishes from SIPA Alumni Relations for a fantastic New Year.

Daniela Coleman  
SIPA Director of Alumni Relations

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## News at SIPA

### **SIPA Alumna and Documentary Producer Wins Emmy Award**

SIPA congratulates alumna Na Eng (MIA '99) on winning a 2008 Emmy Award for business and financial reporting for her segment, "Taxing the Poor," presented on the PBS program *NOW*. To watch "Taxing the Poor," click [here](#). To learn more about Na Eng, visit her blog [here](#).

### **EMPA Fellowship for NYC Employees**

SIPA's EMPA program unveiled a new fellowship for employees of New York City. A small number of the most competitive applicants from among the City's vast pool of talented individuals can secure funding beginning in the fall of 2009. For additional information, please see: [http://www.sipa-empa.com/sipa2/empa\\_frameset.htm](http://www.sipa-empa.com/sipa2/empa_frameset.htm).

### **Ester Fuchs on Creating a Competitive Workforce**

Ester Fuchs, professor of public affairs and political science, unveiled a case study on New York City's workforce development policy and the restructuring that began during Mayor Michael Bloomberg's first administration. For more information, please click on the following link: [http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/news\\_events/newsletter/documents/InnovCityGovCaseStudy08FIN.pdf](http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/news_events/newsletter/documents/InnovCityGovCaseStudy08FIN.pdf).

### **The Growth Report: A Panel Discussion**

SIPA's Program in Economic Policy Management (PEPM) presented a panel discussion, "The Growth Report: Strategies for Sustained Growth and Inclusive Development," released in October. Panel members included Nobel Laureate Economist and MIT Professor Emeritus Robert Solow and World Bank Vice-President Danny Leipziger.

To view a video of the panel discussion click [video](#).

To download the full report, click [here](#).

### **The Politics of Food**

The Manhattan Borough President, the Earth Institute, the Office of Environmental Stewardship and SIPA sponsored a conference focused on one of New York City's biggest policy challenges: delivering wholesome, quality food in a timely manner. For more information, click [here](#).

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## **Highlights of Upcoming Events and Programs**

### **1/14/09: ISP Alumni Network Dinner in NYC, "Energy Policy Choices for the Obama Administration"**

ISP Alumni Network will host a dinner conversation with energy policy expert **Michelle Billig**, "Energy Policy Choices for the Obama Administration," on **January 14** from **7:00-9:30pm** at the **Trattoria DopoTeatro**. Ms. Billig is the Senior Director at PIRA Energy Group and has been a Fellow at the Council of Foreign Relations and conducted energy research at Deutsche Bank. *(This event is full)*

### **1/15-1/16/09: SIPA's Annual Washington, D.C. Career Conference**

Alumni are invited to participate in the **Alumni Reception** and to **host informational interviews** with current students as part of the SIPA Washington, D.C. Career Conference. For more details, please visit: [http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources\\_services/career\\_services/alumni/dc\\_register.html](http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources_services/career_services/alumni/dc_register.html).

### **1/21/09 "They Say Crisis? We Say Art," Paris Art Exhibition**

Alumni in Paris are invited to witness Picasso confronting his masters in an unprecedented exhibition at **Paris' Grand Palais**: Velazquez, Goya, El Greco, Rembrandt, Van Gogh, Gauguin, Renoir and Cézanne, all under the same roof! For more details, click [here](#).

### **1/29/09: Art Exhibition and Reception for SIPA Alumna in NYC**

SIPA will host a special showing of artist/alumna **Cecile Brunswick's** (MIA) work at the **Artsource International LLC Gallery** (333 Park Avenue South, Apt. 2A). The showing and cocktail reception are free for alumni, however registration is required. Please RSVP with keyword "Gallery showing NYC" in the Event Title line at: <http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/ALUM/register/>.

### **2/4/09: London Cocktail Event with Dean John Coatsworth**

SIPA Dean Coatsworth will host a cocktail event for alumni to inform you of the State of the School. The event will be held on **February 4, 2009** from **6:30 – 8:30pm** at the **St. James Hotel and Club** in **London**. To register, click [here](#).

### **2/23/09: Job Searching in a Difficult Economy with Ellis Chase – NYC**

Career Management practitioner [Ellis Chase](#) will discuss career building in a difficult economy. Q&A and reception will follow. Details forthcoming. Stay tuned!

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## Alumni Career Programs & Events

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### **1/29/09: Tele-Seminar Series: “Control of Your Work-Life Fit, Even in an Economic Downturn”**

Columbia University Center for Career Education hosts a monthly Tele-Seminar Series that features professionals with expertise in various career topics, ranging from entrepreneurship to career change and everything in between. The next Tele-Seminar (access by phone) is called “Control of Your Work-Life Fit, Even in an Economic Downturn” on **Thursday, January 29, 1-2PM (ET)**. For more information and registering please visit:

<https://calendar.columbia.edu/sundial/webapi/get.php?vt=detail&br=default&id=28706>.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Annual SIPA NYC Career Conference: Student/Alumni Networking Reception (2/19/09) and Informational Interviews Day (2/20/09)**

Alumni are invited to participate in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual SIPA NYC Career Conference by attending the **Networking Reception** and/or **hosting informational interviews** with current SIPA students. The Reception will take place on **Thursday, February 19** at **Studio 450** (450 West 31st St., between 9th and 10th Ave.) from **6:30-8:30 pm**. On **Friday, February 20** Alumni can host informational interviews with students.

To register for either, please visit:

[http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources\\_services/career\\_services/alumni/ny\\_register.html](http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources_services/career_services/alumni/ny_register.html)

For further information, please email: [sipanycseries@gmail.com](mailto:sipanycseries@gmail.com)

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## SIPAlink

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SIPA’s Office of Career Services (OCS) is proud to introduce **SIPAlink**, our new online recruitment database! Follow the links below for online job and internship postings, employer information sessions, and much more. Some recent jobs are highlighted below. Register to find out more:

<https://www.myinterfase.com/cusipa/student/>.

- Human Rights Officer, *Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)*, Warsaw, Poland
- Deputy Director, *Global Health Communications: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*, Seattle, Washington
- Economist, *Health Nutrition and Population: World Bank*, Washington, DC
- AED Regional Program Manager, *Academy for Educational Development*, Darfur, Sudan

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## Recent Alumni Events

### **12/3/08: *Around the World with Joseph Stiglitz: Film at the Walter Reade Theater (NYC)***

Nobel Laureate and SIPA Professor Joseph Stiglitz joined the Lincoln Center Film Society on December 3<sup>rd</sup> to answer questions following a 7 p.m. screening of Jacques Sarasin’s new travelogue. The documentary followed Professor Stiglitz as he studied the perils and promises of the increasingly international economy.

### **12/9/08: Columbia Alumni Club of France *New Digital Disorder Lecture***

The Columbia Alumni Club of France held a lecture titled *New Digital Disorder* with Harvard professor and Internet expert David Weinberger discussing the Internet revolution.

**12/15/08: Columbia University Club of the Netherlands Dinner and Discussion on Climate Change and Environmental Challenges as Security Problems**

Columbia University Club of the Netherlands held a dinner and discussion with Marc Levy, Deputy Director of the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESEN). Levy discussed a variety of issues relating to climate change, including environmental challenges as security problems, climate policies, and concerns regarding the Kyoto Protocol.

**12/17/08: DC Networking & Drinks**

Fellow SIPA alumni attended networking & drinks event with Daniela Coleman, Director of Alumni Relations, at the 18<sup>th</sup> Street Lounge in Washington, DC. Over 100 alumni were in attendance.

**12/17/08: Columbia Alumni Club of Mexico End of Year Celebration**

Columbia Alumni Club of Mexico celebrated the year's end with "Brindis de fin de año 2008" at Brasserie Central in Mexico City.

**12/18/08: Boston Networking & Drinks**

SIPA alumni joined their fellow Bostonians and Alumni Director Daniela Coleman at *Boston Beer Works* in Fenway for networking drinks and a holiday get together. If you are interested in future Boston events, please contact Alumni Relations ([sipaalum@columbia.edu](mailto:sipaalum@columbia.edu)) for details.

**12/18/08: Columbia and Harvard Alumni Club Annual Holiday Bash**

Columbia and Harvard Alumni Clubs of Moscow had their 4th Annual Alumni Holiday Bash. The event was a festive evening of lively conversation, holiday cheer, and live jazz at Le Pain Quotidien.

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## Alumni Notes

Have you logged onto [Alumni Connection](#) yet to update your [class note](#)? What are you waiting for! All you need is your UNI and Password. (If you forgot them, you can access them [here](#).) Below are some recent postings. Post your note today and stay connected with over 15,000 alumni in 155 countries.

**Herman Smith (MPA 2004)**

Herman D. Smith recently accepted a position at Wildlife Conservation Society located in New York City as Vice President of Human Resources. Herman recently was employed at New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation as Chief Human Resources Executive. "After 25 years as a Human Resources employee in the Public Health Care arena, I was recently appointed Vice President of Human Resources for a premier global conservation organization focusing on the preservation of living species, landscapes, and seascapes across the world. WCS is based in more than 64 countries, and focuses on preservation of the planet. I have been asked to build a world class HR department reflective of the diverse needs of this monumental organization. I look forward to sharing additional updates with my Columbia colleagues as I travel this remarkable journey."

**Theodore Bongiovanni (MPA 2003)**

Ted Bongiovanni (International & Public Affairs, 2003) recently accepted a position at FairChoice Systems located in Brooklyn, NY as Chief Operating Officer. Ted was recently employed at MOUSE as Director of Programs. "FairChoice Systems helps universities save money and increase efficiency by putting paper processes on the web. I'll be focused on operations, marketing and product development to help the firm grow."

## Giving to SIPA

Through contributions to SIPA's Annual Fund, donations for student fellowships, or participation in SIPA's annual benefit dinner, you can help to foster the link between academic excellence and the practice of public policy that makes SIPA unique. For information on how you can contribute to SIPA's mission, please visit: [http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/about\\_sipa/giving\\_to\\_sipa.html](http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/about_sipa/giving_to_sipa.html).

**Create a lasting contribution by making a donation to SIPA today!**

Visit: <https://giving.columbia.edu/giveonline/>

1. Select 'School of International and Public Affairs' from the drop-down menu.
2. Select 'Annual Fund' for the purpose of your gift.

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